

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object, said apparatus comprising an enclosure for substantially sealing within said metal object, said enclosure having at least one adsorbent for substantially surrounding said metal object within said enclosure.
2. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 1 wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, brass, and mixtures thereof.
3. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 1 wherein said enclosure is selected from the group consisting of cases, boxes, bags and pouches.
4. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of said adsorbent is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, natural and synthetic zeolite, silica gel, activated alumina, and mixtures thereof.
5. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as

recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of said adsorbent is preferably selected from the group consisting of woven, non-woven, and knitted activated carbon cloth and fabric; woven and nonwoven activated carbon felt, mat, and sheet; and activated carbon particulates and granules disposed within flexible fibrous matrixes.

6. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 5 wherein said adsorbent is removably attached to interior surfaces of said enclosure.
7. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 6 wherein said adsorbent is disposed between two porous protective layers of fabric or cloth.
8. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 1 wherein said adsorbent is washed with solvent and subsequently heated to a temperature less than about 350 °C to restore an adsorptive capacity of said adsorbent.
9. An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 1 wherein said tarnish results in an increase in electrical resistance of metal objects.

8/10

An apparatus for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 9 wherein said objects are electrical contacts in electronic equipment.

11. A method for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object comprising:
- (a) forming an enclosure having at least one adsorbent attached to interior surfaces of said enclosure; and
 - (b) placing said metal within said enclosure, substantially surrounding the metal with said adsorbent.
12. A method for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 11 wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, brass, and mixtures thereof.
13. A method for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 11 wherein at least one adsorbent is selected from the group consisting of woven, non-woven, and knitted activated carbon cloth and fabric; woven and non-woven activated carbon felt, mat, and sheet; and activated carbon particulates and granules disposed within flexible fibrous matrixes.
14. A method for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 11 wherein said enclosure is selected from the group consisting of cases, boxes, bags and pouches.

15. A method for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 11 further including the steps of:

- (c) removing said adsorbent from said enclosure;
- (d) washing said adsorbent with a solvent to regenerate said adsorptive capacity of said adsorbent; and
- (e) heating said washed adsorbent to a temperature less than about 350⁰ C.

16. A method for substantially preventing tarnish from forming on a metal object as recited in claim 15 further including the step of:

- (f) reinserting or reattaching said washed adsorbent into said enclosure.

Add
a1